

District 13 Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 04

April 2008

Statement of Purpose

The primary purpose of this newsletter will be to carry the message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs. This newsletter's goal is to create a more informed community within AA as it serves District 13. The opinions expressed are those of the contributor, not necessarily that of District 13 or AA as a whole.

Tradition Four

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Step Four

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Concept Four

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation" allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

God grant me the Serenity to Accept the Things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.

New Edition of A.A.'s Spanish 'Big Book': *Alcohólicos Anónimos*

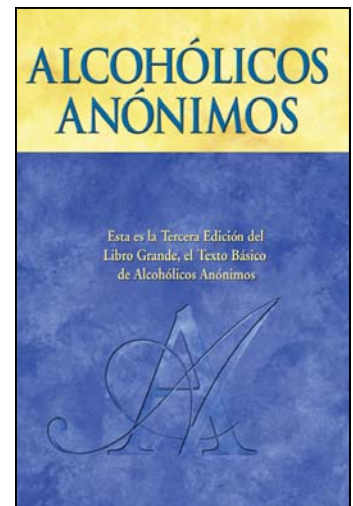
Widens Gateway to Sobriety for Spanish-Speaking Members

March 1, 2008 –

NEW YORK—The third edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Spanish-language edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, affectionately dubbed the Big Book and perhaps the world's bestselling and most heavily thumbed nonfiction book of all time, is now available, reports the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This expanded version reflects current membership, including the rising numbers of Spanish-speaking women and young people. This latest edition also reflects the sweeping population changes that have occurred since publication of the second edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* in 1990, during which the Hispanic population of the United States jumped from 22.4 million to more than 42 million in 2005. Today in Puerto Rico, Canada and the U.S. alone, A.A.'s Spanish-speaking members number more than 47,000; they meet in approximately 1,900 groups.

The first, 1986 edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* contained the basic, 164-page text of the English-language Big Book, setting forth the A.A. principles of recovery from alcoholism, the forewords and shared experience of A.A. cofounder Dr. Bob S., titled "Dr. Bob's Nightmare." But unlike the English Big Book, it did not contain personal stories of recovery.



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*New Edition of A.A.'s Spanish 'Big Book':
Alcohólicos Anónimos (continued from page 1)*

Those would come later, in 1990, with publication of the second edition, which contained 14 new stories—12 originally written in Spanish by Spanish-speaking members from Ecuador, Mexico and Puerto Rico, and two that were translated from the English, “Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three” and “Women Suffer Too.”

The 2007 version, which is representative of members in many more Spanish-speaking countries, contains three original recovery stories from the first edition of the English Big Book, published in 1939, including Dr. Bob’s story, 12 carried over from the 1990 edition, and 32 new ones, for a total of 47. These were selected from 173 compelling narratives submitted by Spanish-speaking members, young and old, around the world.

The new edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* is similar in page count to the latest English-language Big Book.

In the new, third edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the patterns that emerge are as similar as the anonymous storytellers are diverse. From the Mexican

boozer who was called “little owl” because he slept in the hills at night, and the Ecuadorian ship’s officer who crashed on the rocks of alcoholism, to the Puerto Rican drunk who lost his identity only to regain it in A.A., their differing tales are the stuff that invites identification.

For a time during the 1960s, ’70s and early ’80s, as A.A.’s Spanish-speaking membership suddenly burgeoned, a number of translations undertaken independently in several Spanish-speaking countries were in circulation. G.S.O. would purchase for distribution certain translations of the Big Book that were popping up around the world. But there was a problem: The adaptations frequently disagreed and, moreover, contained numerous regionalisms the likes of the word “hangover”: Mexicans would rue their *cruda*; Colombians, their *guayabo*; Central Americans, their *goma*; and Ecuadorians, their *chuchaque*. G.S.O. translators finally settled on *resaca*, which also means “undertow.” Used widely in Caribbean countries and Spain, it is generally intelligible to the greatest number of Hispanic people.

The content of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* has been a joint effort spanning 20 years. During this time G.S.O. has worked to develop a standard Spanish translation of the English-language material together with CIATAL (the Ibero-American Committee on Translations and Adaptations of A.A. Literature) and then through direct contact with the G.S.O.s of Spanish-speaking countries in South and Central America and Spain.

Many A.A. books, pamphlets and other audiovisual materials have their Spanish-language counterparts, including the magazine *La Viña*, published by the A.A. *Grapevine*, and the newsletter *Box 4-5-9*. Along with *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, these have gone far in helping Spanish-speaking alcoholics everywhere to transcend language barriers and become part of mainstream A.A.

The new, third hardcover edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* costs \$6.00. Copies may be obtained through A.A. World Services, Inc., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; or www.aa.org.

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In Memoriam
Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith
August 8, 1879 - November 16, 1950
Co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous

"My good friends in AA and of AA. I feel I would be very remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to welcome you here to Cleveland not only to this meeting but those that have already transpired. I hope very much that the presence of so many people and the words that you have heard will prove an inspiration to you - not only to you, but may you be able to impart that inspiration to the boys and girls back home who were not fortunate enough to be able to come. In other words, we hope that your visit here has been both enjoyable and profitable."

"I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing that I did a number of years ago, played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

"But there are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis; one is the simplicity of our Program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual AA work. Our 12 Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service. We understand what love is and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

"Let us also remember to guard that erring member - the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance."

"And one more thing; none of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to have done numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get the degree of smug complacency so that we're not willing to extend or attempt to, that help which has been so beneficial to us, to our less fortunate brothers. Thank you very much."

Dates To Remember**District 13 Function Committee**

Tuesday Nights @
Good Shepherd Church
6-7pm

District 13 GSR Meeting

Wednesday March 19th
7pm Merrimack YMCA

**Area Assembly -
PRE-CONFERENCE
ASSEMBLY**

(hosted by District 15)
Saturday March 22nd
8am - 4pm Lee, NH

**42nd Annual New
Hampshire Area Convention**

April 11 - 13th
North Conway Grand Hotel
North Conway, NH

District 13 GSR Meeting

Wednesday April 16th
7pm Merrimack YMCA

Area Committee Meeting

Sunday, April 27th
1 - 4pm Hooksett

General Services Conference

April 27th - May 3rd
New York City, NY

**Area Assembly -
POST CONFERENCE
ASSEMBLY**

(hosted by District 9)
Saturday May 17th
8am - 4pm, Concord, NH

Help us celebrate the
**Sunday Night Beginner's Meeting
19th Anniversary**

Sunday, May 4th, 2008
5pm - 7:30pm

45 High Street
Nashua, NH

Dinner at 5pm followed by the regularly
scheduled Sunday Night Beginner's Meeting

**NH Area 43's 42nd Annual
Convention**

April 11th, 12th, 13th, 2008
"Happy, Joyous, and Free"

North Conway Hotel
Route 16 at Settlers' Green O.V.P.
P.O. Box 3189
North Conway, NH 03860

**Speaker Talks Discussion Sessions Workshops
Al-Anon Participation Hospitality Rooms
Saturday Night Dance**

Registration- \$20

**(Includes all speaker talks, dance, ice cream social and
coffee service. Attendance at ANY workshop or event re-
quires registration!)**

Newsletter Deadline

This is YOUR Newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article or personal
experience for publication or advertise an upcoming event for your group,
please send the information to:
District 13 News, P.O. Box 3513, Nashua, NH 03061
Email: newsletter@nhaa13.org **Deadline For Next Issue — April 11th 2008**